SRI M. PALANIMUTHU: Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) the number of cases registered under the Prohibition Act in Thirumangalam village of Perambalur taluk in 1953–54;

(b) how many ended in conviction and how many in acquittal; and

(c) how many are pending before a court of law?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN:—" (a) Only one case, Sir.

" (b) The case ended in acquittal.

" (c) Does not arise."

Araniyar Project.

* 1774 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) when the execution of the Araniyar Project was taken up;

(b) the present stage of the execution of the Project;

(c) the total amount estimated for the completion of the Project; and

(d) the total extent of lands expected to be irrigated by this Project and the number of acres in Tiruvallur taluk and the number of acres in Ponneri taluk?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI:—" (a) The execution of the Project was taken up shortly after its inauguration on 23rd July 1951.

" (b) The Suratpalli anicut has been completed. About one-fourth of the total length of the reservoir bund has been formed and work on the balance is in progress. In the river section almost all the main wells for the cut off arrangements have been sunk and about 20 wells have been plugged. The work of construction of the Suratpalli Anicut channel is in progress.

" (c) Rs. 104·19 lakhs.

" (d) The total extent of lands expected to be irrigated is 11,200 acres. Out of this 10,618 acres lie in Tiruvallur taluk and 582 acres lie in Ponneri taluk."

* 1775 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Hon. Minister for Public Works and the Hon. Minister for Agriculture had any joint inspection of the

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Araniyar Project and discussion with the Deputy Chief Minister of Andhra State with regard to the execution of the Project which was stopped consequent on the separation of the Andhra State; and

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

* 1776 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Goverment have any proposal to raise the height of the Suratapalli anicut in Araniyar Project; and

(b) if so, the height to which it is proposed to be raised and the amount estimated to be spent?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) No.

" (b) Does not arise."

* 1777 Q.—SRI K. VINAYAKAM (on behalf of Sri M. Dharmalingam): Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(a) how many persons are working in the Araniyar Project in Chingleput district;

(b) whether any preference has been shown to the villagers proposed to be evicted, while making appointments in connexion with the Project; and

(c) if so, the number of villagers appointed?

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" (a) 420.

" (b) Only local labourers available have been employed including dispossessed villagers who apply to do work, and still there is dearth of labourers. As regards work-charged posts, merit being the same, preference will be given to dispossessed villagers.

" (c) The information cannot easily be collected."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" May I know how many acres of land lie in the catchment area of this Araniyar project and in which State it lies? Then what is the compensation that has been given to the villagers in the catchment area that have been affected?" 9-40 a.m.

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" I have no information about the exact area. But I know a portion of it lies in the Andhra State."